

Effective Communication Tools for Healthcare Professionals:

Addressing Health Literacy, Cultural Competency, and Limited English Proficiency



Job Aid

Models for Promoting Culturally Competent Patient-Provider Communication

ETHNIC Model

ETHNIC, a framework for culturally competent clinical practice, includes questions to bring out information about a patient's explanation of illness, treatment, and healers, along with negotiation, intervention, and collaboration about treatment. ETHNIC stands for:

- **E—Explanation:** Ask questions to allow the patient to provide an explanation of his or her illness
- **T—Treatment:** Ask questions about how the patient is treating his or her illness
- **H—Healers:** Ask about the use of healers
- N—Negotiation: Negotiate options that incorporate your patient's beliefs and that will be mutually acceptable to you and your patient
- I—Intervention: Determine an intervention with your patient
- **C—Collaboration:** Collaborate with the patient and his or her support system



The content for this was excerpted from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Minority Health. *A Physician's Practical Guide to Culturally Competent Care*. Available at: https://cccm.thinkculturalhealth.hhs.gov/.